

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00091 091746Z

60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /100 W
----- 054188

R 082330Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3701
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS KINGSTON 91

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: PAROCHIAL ELECTIONS

1. ON JANUARY 6, THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT THE LONG-DELAYED ELECTIONS FOR 265 SEATS IN JAMAICA'S 12 PARIS (PROVINCIAL) COUNCILS AND THE COUNCIL OF THE COMBINED KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW CORPORATION (KSAC) WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 5. NOMINATIONS ARE TO CLOSE ON JANUARY 14.

2. THE EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE TO EIGHTEEN YEAR-OLDS HAS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS BY SOME 115,631, SINCE THE 1972 GENERAL ELECTION AND HAS RESULTED IN AN INCREASE OF 13 IN NUMBERS OF SEATS AT STAKE

3. AT PRESENT, CONTROL OF THE PARIS COUNCILS IS EVENLY DIVIDED, WITH THE PNP AND JLP EACH HOLDING SIX. THE PNP, HOWEVER, CONTROLS THE COUNCIL FOR THE KSAC, THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT IN THE ISLAND AND IS GENERALLY STRONG IN PARIS COUNCILS WITH A LARGE URBAN CENTER - ST. JAMES (MONTEGO BAY), MANCHESTER (MANDEVILLE).
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4. THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT MET WITH SEVERE CRITICISM FROM THE OPPOSITION WHICH ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF EXTENSIVE GERRYMANDERING OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PNP AN EDGE. DESPITE SOME PAST STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY, HOWEVER, THE OPPOSITION INTENDS TO CONTEST THE ELECTION AGGRESSIVELY. HEWITT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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